

EXAMINER'S COMMENT

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed December 1, 2009, with respect to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 over Solovev have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-19 and 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

2. Claims 1-19 and 21-30 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments were sufficient to overcome all remaining outstanding claim rejections over the closest prior art of record, Solovev. Specifically, Solovev does not disclose or suggest a foam pad having an outer surface having pores of a first average size and from that, a foam pad having an inner body having pores of a second average size that is greater than said first average size.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELANIE J. HAND whose telephone number is (571)272-6464. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melanie J Hand/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3761